

# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE OF GEORGIA

## INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

FROM

  
Meg B. Pirkle, P.E., Chief Engineer

DATE April 18, 2017

TO

See Distribution

SUBJECT **Noise Barrier Policy – Material Type Requirements**

Effective immediately, the Department has revised its noise barrier policy to specifically address material type requirements for noise wall installations. The revised policy below is published in the GDOT Design Policy Manual, [Chapter 6.14 Noise Barriers](#).

Noise walls shall be constructed using precast concrete panels. Interlocking steel panels shall be used only where a lighter weight material is necessary such as on bridges and retaining walls. Timber, transparent or absorptive panels may be specified only to address context sensitive or special design needs, as defined in the project noise study. **A decision to use a noise wall material other than precast concrete panels or interlocking steel panels, as noted above, will require written approval from the GDOT Chief Engineer.** The approval request will contain the project description, an explanation of why a different material has been selected, and an "approval:" line for the Chief Engineer's signature. The request will be submitted to [DesignException@dot.ga.gov](mailto:DesignException@dot.ga.gov) for processing.

The above policy supersedes all other letters, directives, guidelines, and policies on this subject, and applies to all GDOT projects whether in preconstruction or construction phases. The above policy also applies to all construction contracting methods, whether traditional or alternative delivery. Consequently, projects already in the construction phase will need to obtain the Chief Engineer's approval to use any material other than concrete or steel according to this policy.

This policy may affect many other GDOT published documents on the subject. Therefore, I am directing all Divisions to review and if necessary modify or remove any existing policies or documents that may be inconsistent with this policy.

If you have any questions contact Brent Story ([bstory@dot.ga.gov](mailto:bstory@dot.ga.gov)) or Dan Pass ([dpass@dot.ga.gov](mailto:dpass@dot.ga.gov)) with the Office of Design Policy & Support at (404) 631-1978.

MBP:BAS:GMP

cc: Federal Highway Administration, Georgia Division  
American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)/Georgia Chapter  
Georgia Highway Contractors Association (GHCA)